| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Shri Om Prakash, Assistant Director | Release of funds to blacklisted NGO. | Charges were not substantiated in inquiry. | Exonerated from the charge on 11-1-1999. |
| 4. | Sh. S.D. Singh, AD | Amount sanctioned and released to blacklisted NGO. | Charge stands proved. | Major penalty of one increment reduced for a period of one year with cumulative effects has been imposed on 5.8.2004. |
| 5. | Sh. Y. Bhakta, RO | (a) Amount release to BLA NGO. | Charge stands proved. | Imposition of minor penalty withholding one increment on 27.8.2001. |
| | | (b) Release of funds to the FAS NGO. | The Inquiry Officer held charge not proved. | Case closed without imposing punishment on 10-1-2000. |
| 6. | Sh. A.R.R. Pillai, RO | Amount sanctioned and released to blacklisted NGO. | Charge stands proved. | Major penalty of reduction of pay to lower stage in the time scale of pay by three increments for a period of three years with cumulative effects has been imposed on 5.8.2004. |
| 7. | Sh. P.K. Gupta, RO | Amount released to blacklisted NGO. | Charge not proved in inquiry. | Charges dropped on 22-11-2005. |
| 8. | Sh. M.P. Singh, RO | Amount released to blacklisted NGO. | Charge stands proved. | Minor penalty imposed on the official. Order issued on 28.3.2002. |
| 9. | Sh. S.K. Das, RO | Amount released to BLA NGO. | Charge not proved in inquiry. | Major penalty imposed. Reduction to a lower stage of one increment in the scale of pay for a period of 2 years on 23.9.2002. Appellate Authority reduced the penalty to CENSURE on 26-3-2004. |

**Old age pension scheme**

†2611. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for giving monthly pension of Rs. 200/- to all the poor old persons of 65 years age has been implemented through the country;

(b) if so, whether a demand to this effect is also being made that the age limit should be reduced to 60 years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi .

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to ensure that all the poor old persons of the country can avail the benefit of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal is under consideration to provide pension to persons who are 60 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India, by lowering the age limit from 65 years to 60 years under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

(d) Guidelines have been issued to all the State Governments to identify the beneficiaries based on the liberalized eligibility criteria under IGNOAPS and certify that all the eligible beneficiaries have been covered. Information and Education Campaign has also been taken up to generate awareness.

**Laggardness in implementing NREGS in some States**

2612. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest data on employment provided under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme shows that States like Gujarat, Maharashtra considered economically and industrially advanced areas are among laggards;

(b) whether according to the figures till October, 2007, Maharashtra provided employment only 6 per cent of the households that has been registered and given job cards under the Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(c) the total States who have not been able to perform better on rural job scheme; and

(d) the main reasons therefor and what action Government proposes to take against those who have not implemented this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is demand driven. A registered job card holding household under NREGA has a legal right to get 100 days of employment in a financial year for doing unskilled manual work on demand. This right can be exercised by a household any time during a financial year. Employment demand under NREGA is likely to be low in districts that are comparatively more developed, with greater opportunities of employment in other avenues both in agriculture and rural non-farm activities.

(b) NREGS being demand driven, the percentage of employment provided is measured with respect to employment demanded by the registered job card holders. In Maharashtra, as reported by the State Government, till October, 2007, 183086 households had demanded employment under NREGA and employment was provided to all of them.

(c) and (d) NREGS is demand driven. The pace of its implementation varies from State to State. However, all the States have been instructed to further improve their performance in implementing NREGS.